

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 TOKYO 03328 050824Z

14

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 AGR-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 FRB-03

OMB-01 OES-03 HEW-02 L-03 /050 W

----- 007707

P 050725Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7441

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TOKYO 3328

DEPT PASS STR AND AGRICULTURE FOR FAS HUME AND FITZSIMMONDS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EPAP, ETRD, JA

SUBJECT: CITRUS/FUNGICIDES

REFS: (A) TOKYO 2446; (B) TOKYO 3153

1. SUMMARY: IN DISCUSSIONS WITH BOTH MAF AND MHW OFFICIALS SINCE REF A, AGATT REPS TOLD TENTATIVE OR PROVISIONAL APPROVAL OPP/TBZ BEFORE RESEARCH COMPLETED IS ILLEGAL AND THEREFORE IMPOSSIBLE. RESEARCH ON OPP BEGUN BUT SHIRASU STILL AWAITING SAMPLE IN ORDER BEGIN TBZ RESEARCH. IMPORTERS MANAGERIAL ASSN ALSO TOLD BY GOJ THAT PROV APPROVAL IMPOSSIBLE. END SUMMARY.

2. AGATT REPS TOLD BY CONCERNED GOJ OFFICIALS THAT PROV APPROVAL NOT POSSIBLE UNDER LAW. MIYAZAWA OF MHW EXPLAINED THAT THERE ALWAYS SLIGHT POSSIBILITY THAT ONE OR BOTH CHEMICALS WILL TEST POSITIVE IN MUTAGENICITY (OR TERATOGENICITY FOR OPP) STUDIES. SHOULDTHIS HAPPEN AFTER PROV APPROVAL GIVEN MHW WOULD BE IN EXTREMELY EMBARRASSING POSITION. HE SAID TBZ CAN BE USED PREHARVEST BUT RESIDUE TOLERANCE MUST BE WITHIN ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY'S TOLERANCE OF 2 PPM AND TREATED FRUIT SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED WITH GOVT DOCUMENT CERTIFYING THAT CHEMICAL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 TOKYO 03328 050824Z

APPLIED PREHARVEST NOT POST HARVEST.

3. MIYAZAWA REMINDED AGATT REPS THAT CERTAIN CONSUMERIST ORGANIZATIONS HAVE LABS AND KNOW RESIDUE TESTING METHODS FOR CHEMICALS AND THAT SUCH ORGS CONTINUALLY ATTEMPTING TO CONVINCE PUBLIC THAT MHW IS ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE.

4. RESEARCH ON OPP NOW UNDERWAY BUT NOTHING STARTED YET ON TBZ DUE TO LACK OF SAMPLE. UNDERSTAND MERCK/US WILL NOT GIVE FINAL DECISION RE SAMPLE UNTIL LATE MARCH OR EARLY APRIL.

5. MUTAGENICITY DATA ON TBZ GENERATED AT MERCK/US LABS WILL NOT REPEAT NOT BE ACCEPTABLE TO FOOD SANITATION INVESTIGATION COUNCIL (FSIC) ACCORDING TO MHW. DATA MUST COME FROM RELIABLE, INDEPENDENT SOURC(S). USDA/ARS WESTERN REGIONAL LAB DATA WOULD BE USEFUL.

6. UNDERSTAND NOW THAT SAMPLE OF TBZ (99 PERCENT PURE) AVAILABLE HERE, REGISTERED UNDER NAME TK-100 WITH TRADE NAME BIO-GUARD. SHIRASU ANXIOUS TO GET STARTED SO THAT APPROVAL PROCESS WILL NOT BE HELD UP BY LACK OF DATA ON TBZ. TK-100 REGISTERED AS PESTICIDE FOR PREHARVEST USE. MUTAGENICITY NOW REQUIRED ON ALL AGRIC CHEMICALS USED PREHARVEST SO MERCK MUST EVENTUALLY SUPPLY SUCH DATA OR LOSE CURRENT REGISTRATION ON TK-100. SHIRASU TEMPTED GO AHEAD WITH SAMPLE TK-100 BUT WOULD LIKE BLESSING OF MERCK/US.

7. DR WOODRUFF OF MERCK/US NOW IN TOKYO ON SEPARATE MATTER. AGATT ATTEMPTING GET HIM IN TOUCH WITH SHIRASU FOR DISCUSSION.

8. NIIMURA GROUP (IMPORTER'S MANAGERIAL ASSN) ALSO TOLD BY BOTH MAF AND MHW OFFICIALS THAT PROVISIONAL APPROVAL IMPOSSIBLE.

9. ACCORDING RUMORS IN TRADE, SOME US SHIPPERS PLANNING USE BENOMYL OR SOME OTHER FUNGICIDE DURING WARM MONTHS IN EFFORT REDUCE SPOILAGE IN ABSENCE OPP/TBZ APPROVAL. THEY SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT SUCH ACTION WOULD INVOLVE NOT ONLY HIGH RISK INDIVIDUALLY, BUT COULD LEAD TO SHARPLY INCREASED PRESS ACTIVITY AND PERHAPS FORMIDABLE OPPOSITION FROM CONSUMERISTS TO FINAL APPROVAL OPP/TBZ, THUS JEOPARDIZING POSSIBILITIES FINAL APPROVAL AT LEAST TEMPORARILY FOR ENTIRE INDUSTRY.
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 TOKYO 03328 050824Z

10. ALSO IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT FSIC REQUIRES CHEMICALS BE "NECESSARY" AS WELL AS SAFE BEFORE APPROVAL GRANTED. MIYAZAWA SAYS MHW MIN TANAKA HAS ALREADY TESTIFIED BEFORE DIET THAT OPP/TBZ NEEDED SO THAT FSIC CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL IS IN ORDER. SHOULD SHIPPERS/IMPORTERS SOMEHOW GET FRUIT THROUGH CUSTOMS DURING WARM SEASON WITH "NORMAL" SPOILAGE RATES OF SAY 5 TO 8 PERCENT BEFORE OPP/TBZ APPROVAL, CONSUMERISTS, ET

AL, MAY HAVE STRONG ARGUMENT THAT CHEMICALS NOT "NEEDED", THAT
1975 WAS RARE WEATHER YEAR CAUSING FRUIT TO BE EXCEPTIONALLY
WEAK, BUT IN NORMAL YEARS SPOILAGE NOT BIG ENOUGH PROBLEM TO
WARRANT APPROVAL NEW FOOD ADDITIVES (OPP/TBZ).

11. ALSO COMMON TO HEAR COMPARISON OF WAX ISSUE WITH OPP/TBZ.
IN EYES MHW ISSUES QUITE DIFFERENT. MHW DID NOT REPEAT NOT
"APPROVE" POLY-PALE TYPE WAXES. "APPROVAL" BY LAW REQUIRES
ADVICE FSIC. SAID WAXES NEEDED NO "APPROVAL" SINCE MHW
JUDGED THEM MADE OF "NATURAL" SUBSTANCES. OPP/TBZ CANNOT
REPEAT CANNOT BE SOLVED SO SIMPLY.
SHOESMITH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RESEARCH, POLICIES, IMPORT CONTROLS, CITRUS FRUITS, FUNGICIDES, EXPORTERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TOKYO03328
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760084-0237
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760388/aaaacztel
Line Count: 127
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 TOKYO 2446, 76 TOKYO 3153
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 MAY 2004 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <08 JUL 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CITRUS/FUNGICIDES
TAGS: EPAP, ETRD, JA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006